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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Twenty-third (extraordinary) session
Geneva, 14 August-1 September

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The twenty-third (extraordinary) session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17, will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 14 August to 1 September 2000. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 14 August 2000, at 10.30 a.m.

2. The attached provisional agenda and annotations for the twenty-third (extraordinary) session of the Committee have been prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Committee.

3. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 6 containing the list of reports that will be before the Committee at its twenty-third (extraordinary) session.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organization of work.

3. Substantive issues arising in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

4. Follow-up to the consideration of reports under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant.

5. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies.

6. Consideration of reports:

   (a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant;

   (b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant.

7. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant.

8. Miscellaneous matters.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 5 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of its officers when required under rule 14. In accordance with rule 6 the Committee, during a session, may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, add, delete or defer items.

2. Organization of work

In accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, at the beginning of each session, the Committee shall consider appropriate organizational matters, including the schedule of its meetings. In this connection, the attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to the draft programme of work for the session, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee and in accordance with established practice (E/C.12/2000/L.2).

3. Substantive issues arising in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Committee decided at its fourteenth session (28 April-17 May 1996) that as from its fifteenth session its discussions relating to the implementation of the Covenant (NGO hearings, methods of work, consideration and adoption of General Comments, etc.) would be conducted under this agenda item.

4. Follow-up to the consideration of reports under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

At its fourteenth session, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, recognizing the importance of periodically reviewing the implementation by States parties of its suggestions and recommendations, requested the Secretariat to submit to it, as from the fifteenth session, a document indicating all cases where a follow-up had been suggested by the Committee. In this connection, the attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to document E/C.12/2000/3 which contains the requested information.

5. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies

The Committee decided at its sixth session to nominate individual members to follow the work of each of the other treaty bodies. Such members are to follow as closely as possible the work of the relevant committees, to liaise where possible with members of these committees and to present an oral report on developments of both a procedural and substantive nature in their work which appeared to be of specific relevance to the work of the Committee (E/1992/23, paras. 371-373).

6. Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 61, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall normally consider the reports submitted by States parties under article 16 of the Covenant in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General. Representatives of the reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined; such representatives should be able to make statements on the reports submitted by their Governments and reply to questions which may be put to them by the members of the Committee.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1999/287 of 30 July 1999, requested the Secretary-General to schedule seven reports from seven States parties for consideration at its twenty-third (extraordinary) session.

In accordance with rule 62, paragraph 2, of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has in a note verbale dated 7 May 2000, has informed the States parties concerned of the opening date and duration of the twenty-third session of the Committee, as well as of the dates at which their respective reports will be examined and has invited them to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee.

As of 30 June 2000, two States parties (Belgium and Honduras) whose reports were scheduled by the Committee for consideration at the present session, informed the Committee that they would be unable to present their reports at the twenty-third (extraordinary) session and requested that consideration of their respective report be postponed to a future session of the Committee (note verbale of Belgium dated 11 May 2000 and of Honduras dated 18 May 2000).

As at 30 June 2000, the reports listed below had been received by the Secretary-General. The reports of the States parties which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-third (extraordinary) session are identified by an asterisk. The tentative timetable for consideration of those reports, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, is contained in document E/C.12/2000/L.2.

Initial reports

Honduras	E/1990/5/Add.40
Sudan*	E/1990/5/Add.41
Kyrgyzstan*	E/1990/5/Add.42
China: Hong Kong	E/1990/5/Add.43
Bolivia	E/1990/5/Add.44
Nepal	E/1990/5/Add.45

Second periodic reports

Jordan*	E/1990/6/Add.17
Belgium	E/1990/6/Add.18
Venezuela	E/1990/6/Add.19
Morocco	E/1990/6/Add.20
Japan	E/1990/6/Add.21
Yugoslavia	E/1990/6/Add.22
Republic of Korea	E/1990/6/Add.23
Panama	E/1990/6/Add.24
Senegal	E/1990/6/Add.25
Algeria	E/1990/6/Add.26

Third periodic reports

Portugal	E/1994/104/Add.20
Mongolia*	E/1994/104/Add.21
Australia*	E/1994/104/Add.22
Syrian Arab Republic	E/1994/104/Add.23
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (dependent territories)	E/1994/104/Add.24

Fourth periodic reports

Finland	E/C.12/4/Add.1
Ukraine	E/C.12/4/Add.2
Germany	E/C.12/4/Add.3
Sweden	E/C.12/4/Add.4
Colombia	E/C.12/4/Add.5

(b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 67 of its rules of procedure, the Committee is entrusted with the task of considering the reports submitted by specialized agencies pursuant to article 18 of the Covenant.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the specialized agencies concerned may make statements on matters falling within the scope of the activities of their respective organization in the course of the discussion by the Committee of the report of each State party to the Covenant. The representatives of the States parties presenting reports to the Committee shall be free to respond to, or take into account, the statements made by the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General has invited the following specialized agencies, United Nations organs and financial institutions to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO),

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and the World Trade Orgnaization (WTO).

Any report which may be received from the specialized agencies under article 18 of the Covenant will be made available to the Committee in due course.

7. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 59, paragraph 1, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall at each session consider the status of submission of reports under article 16 of the Covenant and may make appropriate recommendations to the Council, including recommendations to the effect that the Secretary-General should send reminders to States parties from which reports have not been received.

The Committee will have before it under this item the following document:

A note by the Secretary-General on the States parties to the Covenant and the Status of submission of reports (E/C.12/2000/2).

8. Miscellaneous matters

At its twenty-first session (1999), the Committee decided to inscribe on its agenda a standing item "Miscellaneous matters", under which it may consider any issue falling outside the scope of other standing agenda items.